Joint Venture and wholly owned companies abroad for trading and other services under the revised Export-Import Policy for 1992—97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to create a new category of Super Stars among export houses in the country; and

(d) whether this decision would help in increasing the exports by Small Scale Industries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Joint Ventures and Wholly Owned subsidiaries abroad for trading and other services can be set up even under existing guidelines for Overseas Investment.

(c) Yes, Sir. A new category of Super Star Trading House has been created in the Export-Import Policy 1992—97 (Revised Edition ; March, 1994).

(d) Since exports of goods manufactured by Small Scale Industries are given double weightage for recognition as a Super Star Trading House, this is likely to encourage greater sourcing by them of goods manufactured by that sector.

Import and Export of various Commodities

4297. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various commodities which have been exported and imported in the country during the last three years;

(b) the year-wise and commodity-wise details for the same period;

(c) the total foreign exchange earned by Government from export during this period; and

(d) the total foreign exchange incurred by Government in respect of imports during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Information called for is voluminous. Data on exports and imports commodity-wise are published in volumes I & II of the Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India (Annual Number) by DGCI&S, Calcutta. The publications are presently available only up to 1992-93. These publications are made available to the Lok Sabha Library. The Annual Numbers for 1993-94 have not become due.

(c) and (d) India's exports and imports during 1991-92, 1992-93 and April—February, 1993-94, the latest period for which such data are available, are given below :

	Exports		Imports	
	Rs. crores	US$ Million	Rs. crores	US$ Million
1991-92 . . .	44042	17865	47851	19411
1992-93 . . .	53688	18537	63375	21882
1993-94 . . . (April –Feb.)	62181	19825	63780	20335
1992-93 . . . (April –Feb.)	47234	16441	57302	19945

Changes in Import-Export Policy

4298. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced important changes in the Export-Import Policy;

(b) if so, what are the new features of the said policy and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what effective measures Government propose to take to boost exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a)

to (c) Keeping in view the process of liberalisation and the need to boost country's exports, the Export & Import Policy, 1992—97 and Procedures related thereto have been further simplified and streamlined. A statement giving details of major changes made in the Policy is enclosed.

Statement

Details regarding major changes made in the Policy

1. Third Party Exports can be effected under Duty Exemption and EPCG Schemes.

2. To reduce delay in the issuance of duty free licences, the number of standard input-output norms for export products have been further enhanced. Now they stand at 3383 norms from 2211 norms that existed on 1-4-1993.

3. The facility of granting duty free licences on repeat basis, based on adhoc norms, will continue till such time as the adhoc norms are standardised and notified.

4. The powers of Zonal Advance Licensing Committees have been enhanced from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore to consider request of duty free licences based on adhoc norms. Where the norms have been notified, these powers stand enhanced from Rs. 5 crores to Rs. 10 crores.

5. To strengthen our industrial base, the duty free licence holders will be able to source their goods from local manufacturers instead of importing the same with an added advantage of Deemed Export benefits. The facility of advance Release Order has also been extended to Special Imprest Licences, Advance Intermediate Licences, Transferred Advance Licences and Sensitive list items in terms of value. Additional 20% flexibility permissible on Sensitive List items on Value Based Licensing will now be permitted on Advance Release Orders also.

6. The entitlement limit to furnish Legal Undertaking (LUT) has been enhanced from 3 times to 5 times of the past export performance level in respect of Export/Trading/Star Trading House and Public Sector Undertakings. For others, it has been raised from 11/2 times to 2 times. Super Star Trading House will have unlimited entitlement for LUT.

7. In respect of duty free licences for a C.I.F. value of Rs. 1 crore and above, Bank Guarantees, where required can be submitted in two parts. It is also provided that on completion of 50% of the exports, the Bank Guarantee liability can be proportionately reduced by furnishing a revised Bank Guarantee.

8. Submission of LUT alongwith application has been introduced to accelerate the process of imports and the resultant exports.

9. The provisions for revalidation and extension in Export Obligation period against duty free licences have been further streamlined and now the Regional Licensing Authorities can revalidate/extend the Export Obligation period for a period of twelve months.

10. Clubbing of more than one duty free licence having the same technical specifications has been permitted for the purpose of redemption/regularisa-tion.

11. The requirement to furnish the supporting manufacturer's name and other details alongwith the application has been dispensed with. Licence holders have now been made solely responsible for discharging the Export Obligation Undertaken, thereby they are free to get the export item manufactured by any manufacturer.

12. For the purpose of regularisation of default, a provision has been made to condone the shortfall up to 5% in terms of value of a Duty Free Licence.

13. The facility of split-up licences has also been extended to Duty Free Licences.

14. Export of computer software and specified professional services abroad will now be counted towards grant of status as Expprt/Trading/Star Trad-

ing/Super Star Trading House. Transitional arrangements are provided to provisionally recognise export/ Trading/Star Trading/Super Star Trading House for a 6 month period during which they can seek renewal/ up gradation of their status. The Export/Trading/Star Trading/Super Star Trading House status holders will also be allowed to import one/ two/three/five cars(s) respectively as a one-time facility.

15. The scope of importability of items against Special Import Licence granted to Export/Trading/Star Trading House and manufacturer exporters with ISO 9000 or BIS 14000 certification is being increased so as to render the scheme more attractive.

16. One time import of cars is now permitted to Export Houses/Trading Houses/Star Trading Houses/Super Star Trading Houses on payment of customs duty in free foreign exchange from their EEPC Account so that they are able to service the visiting business delegations better.

17. In the case of Import of Gold and Silver against the above category, its imports are now permitted on payment of concessional rate of Customs Duty from their EEPC Account.

18. Rate of entitlement of Special Import Licence has been enhanced for Export/Trading/Star Trading House. Deemed Exporters who do not avail of the facility of the Duty Exemption Scheme shall also be entitled for Special Import Licences at the rate of 5% of FOR value of supply.

19. Import of second-hand capital goods having a residual life of minimum of 5 years may be imported by all Actual Users without a licence.

20. Physically hadicapped persons may now import cars specially designed for them subjects to conditions laid down.

Contingency plan to increase Exports

4299. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to formulate a contingency plan to increase exports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Export Promotion is a continuous process and efforts are made to create an environment congenial for increase in exports on a continuing basis. In consultation with trade promotion organisations, such as Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards annual export targets are fixed keeping the export prospects in view. During 1993-94, an export growth target of about 20% in dollar terms was fixed which is likely to be achieved.

Tobacco Production

4300. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco production has registered an increase during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that after the disintegration of the USSR the tobacco production suffered great loss as the USSR was the main buyer of our tobacco;

(c) the extent of increase in tobacco production during 1992-93;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government had suggested to the tobacco producers to switchover to other crops;

(e) whether it is a fact that the tobacco crop is likely to be reduced during 1993 and 1994;

(f) the total tobacco exported during 1992-93, 1993-94 and likely to be imported during 1994-95 and the names of the States where the tobacco crop has been changed; and

(g) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to impose Luxury Tax on tobacco products in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) and (e) The FCV tobacco production in the country and the quantities purchased by the e.stwhile USSR (now CIS)